

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

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R 101125Z DEC 73

FM AMCONSUL TABRIZ

TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN UNN

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 76

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, SOCI, IR

SUBJ: DEMONSTRATION AT TABRIZ UNIVERSITY

REF: TABRIZ A-1 OF MARCH 17, 1973

SUMMARY: SMALL DEMONSTRATION NOV 6, ON ANNIVERSARY OF 1954 STUDENT DEATHS AT TEHRAN, WAS QUICKLY SUPPRESSED BY POLICE IN CLEAR SHOW OF FORCE. DEMONSTRATION MINOR AFFAIR, QUICKLY ENDED, AND SIGNIFICANT ONLY AS SHOWING GOVERNMENT'S FIRM HAND AND REFUSAL TAKE ANY CHANCES ON GRADUAL ESCALATION OF DEMONSTRATION SUCH AS OCCURED LAST YEAR (REFAIR). END SUMMARY.

1. DEMONSTRATION, WHICH HAS BEEN ANNUAL EVENT, WAS APPARENTLY CALM AFFAIR WITH COMMEMORATIVE PLCARDS AND SONGS BUT NO DEMANDS FOR CHANGES OR REFORMS. NUMBERS OF STUDENTS INVOLVED RELATIVELY SMALL, BETWEEN 300 AND 600 OUT OF 6000 PLUS STUDENT BODY. OFFICIALS KNEW OF EVENT AND HAD NOT OBJECTED, BUT SHORTLY AFTER DEMONSTRATION STARTED IT WAS BROKEN UP BY FORCE OF APPROXIMATELY 250 POLICEMEN.

2. SEVERAL WITNESSES

REPORT STUDENTS OFFERED NO VIOLENCE BUT SMALL GROUPS OF POLICE ATTACKED AND MAY HAVE TAUNTED INDIVIDUAL STUDENTS PRIOR MAJOR POLICE CHARGE WHICH DISPERSED CROWD. APPARENTLY NO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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STUDENTS SERIOUSLY INJURED. THREE INDEPENDENT SOURCES CONFIRM

THAT ARMY TROOPS IN FULL BATTLE DRESS WERE HELD SEVERAL BLOCKS AWAY AS RESERVE FORCE. THIS CONTRARY LAST YEARS EXPERIENCE WHEN NO TROOPS USED EVEN THOUGH DISRUPTIONS MORE SERIOUS.

3. INTERESTING SIDELIGHT: ENGINEERING AND AGRICULTURE STUDENTS, WHO PLAYED MAJOR ROLE LAST YEAR, TOOK NO PART IN THIS CONFRONTATION AND LEFT LEAD TO STUDENTS OF SCIENCE FACULTY. AS USUAL, MOST PROFESSORS WERE UNSYMPATHETIC TO STUDENTS AND NONE PARTICIPATED IN DEMONSTRATION.

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